



DATE: April 17, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council through City Manager

FROM: Ken Eichstaedt, PE, TE – Senior Traffic Engineer, Public Works & Utilities (PW&U)
Christopher J. Bolt, MPA, PE, CPM, ICMA-CM – Director, PW&U

SUBJECT: Resolution Approving a Request to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for the Allocation of Fiscal Year 23/24 Transportation Development Act Article 3 Pedestrian/Bicycle Project Funding

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached resolution approving a request to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for the allocation of Fiscal Year 23/24 Transportation Development Act Article 3 Pedestrian/Bicycle Project funding and finding that this action is exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 and 15269.

BACKGROUND

Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds are generated from a statewide ¼ cent sales tax. Article 3 of TDA, (TDA-3), sets aside approximately 2 percent of those funds for bicycle and pedestrian planning and projects. The funds, which are allocated by population, are managed locally by the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) with a specific amount set aside for Petaluma, subject to formal approval by SCTA. There are no matching requirements with this funding source. Projects are required to meet Caltrans safety design criteria and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, be completed within three years, be maintained, be consistent with the adopted bicycle plan, and be authorized by the City Council. Projects are to be recommended by the current city, town, and county bicycle and pedestrian advisory committees.

TDA-3 requirements specify that funds can be used for bicycle or pedestrian capital projects, ongoing maintenance of multi-purpose paths closed to motorized traffic, bicycle education programs, and plans, development of pedestrian facilities plans, or restriping Class II bicycle lanes. The City used TDA-3 funds most recently to maintain and construct portions of the Lynch Creek Trail (LCT), Payran St., and Fox Hollow sections. As far back as 2009/2010, the funds were used to construct the portion of the Lynch Creek Trail that runs through Lucchesi Park. This TDA-3

allocation was most recently used for improvements and maintenance on other segments of the LCT and the Prince Park Trail, as well as for the update of the Active Transportation Plan, currently underway.

DISCUSSION

The City's current TDA-3 fund balance is approximately \$79,280. For this year's TDA-3 cycle, staff recommends that the funding be allocated for partial funding of the Active Transportation Plan (ATP; E16502134).

Upon approval by the City Council, staff will submit the grant application in April 2023, with a decision expected in June, and funding available in July. That award, combined with unused TDA-3 funds from the fiscal year 2022/23 have been carried over to FY 23/24 for this project to pay a portion of the total ATP cost of \$143,000.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee voted to recommend that the Council approve this Resolution at their regular public meeting on April 5, 2023, after hearing public comments on this item.

This agenda item appeared on the City's tentative agenda document on April 3, 2023, which was a publicly noticed meeting.

COUNCIL GOAL ALIGNMENT

The Active Transportation Plan supports the following Council Workplan Items:

- #18: Establish and improve paths, as useful transportation options, and make walking and biking easy, fun, and safe.
- #20: Better integration of multi-modal transportation with street designs.
- #26: Update the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian plan and realize opportunities for crosstown connections for all modes of transportation.
- #79: Improve traffic safety through proactive education, engineering, and enforcement strategies.
- #85: Implement City Vision Zero plan with a focus on pedestrian and cyclist safety with improvements to uncontrolled crosswalks, curb ramps, sidewalk, and bicycle infrastructure.
- #119: Establish bicycle and walking paths and other river access amenities along the Petaluma River as identified in the River Access and Enhancement Plan.
- #218: Look at ways/locations to increase river footbridges.

CLIMATE ACTION/SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

This project will inherently encourage walking and active transportation in the city, helping to reduce vehicle trips and the associated greenhouse gas emissions. Improving the walking and

biking surface will allow residents and visitors to use the trail more safely and be less inclined to drive, thus removing barriers to multi-modal transportation on this crosstown corridor.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The proposed action is exempt from the requirements of CEQA in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15378, in that applying for a grant does not meet CEQA's definition of a “project,” because the action does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and because the action does not commit the City to a definite course of action (See *City of Irvine v. County of Orange* (2013) 221 Cal 4th 846, 865 (County’s decision to apply for state funding for potential jail expansion was not a project approval)).

Additionally, the funds are proposed to be used to draft a plan, which in and of itself does not create an environmental impact. Any action resulting from the plan will have its own environmental analysis to comply with CEQA.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

There are no fiscal impacts from the proposed action.

ALTERNATIVES

If the City Council does not approve a resolution for this TDA-3 funding allocation request, then the City will not meet the funding criteria and will not submit this project for consideration. In that event, the City would delay updating the ATP, while the TDA-3 funds would accumulate and roll over to the next cycle for future bicycle or pedestrian projects.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution with Exhibits
 - a. Findings
 - b. Description
2. TDA Application
3. Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee Recommendation Letter dated April 5, 2023, by Chair Bond